

United States Patent [19]

Sherman

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[54] DESIGN COMPONENT SELECTION COMPUTER WITH SPECIFICATION OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS AND OF COLOR BY MACHINE READABLE DEVICE

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[58] Field of Search ... 364/200 MS File, 900 MS File, 364/400, 401, 518, 526; 235/375, 383; 340/825.35

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[57] ABSTRACT

A process for identification, description and display of design components, such as interior decoration products, selected by describing desired component characteristics to a digital computer. An image database is provided, preferably in the form of an addressable optical videodisk, each frame of which portrays an individual design component, and the images are displayed by operation of a computer-controlled archive system such as a random-access optical videodisk player. A characteristics database is provided to identify each portrayed design component by a variety of product categories including at least color, price, manufacturer and image database address. The process obtains one or more desired component characteristics, examines the characteristics database to identify design components meeting the desired product characteristics, and displays the identified component images together with a complete record of characteristics for each product. The desired color characteristic can be obtained by selection from a text dictionary of color identification terms, by machine inspection of a machine-readable color comparison sample, or by optical spectrum analysis of a pre-existing product sample.

9 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

